for full exemption from excise duty on specified goods, upto an aggregate clearance of Rs. 100 lakhs, provided they do not avail any CENVAT credit. Under notification No. 9/2002-CE., dated 1.3.2002, small scale units are eligible for concessional rate of 60% of normal rate of duty, in case they avail the CENVAT credit facility.

(b) and (c) In terms of the provisions of section 2(f) of the Central Excise Act, for certain specified goods including certain goods falling under Chapter 73 and 85 of the First Schedule to the Central Excise Tariff Act, the process of labeling or relabelling and repacking etc. amounts to manufacture. However, the SSI exemption on such goods is available, provided they are specified under SSI exemption notifications, mentioned above. To ensure that the benefit of the exemption is not misused, it has been provided that the exemption will not be available if a small scale unit uses the brand name of another unit.

Vacancies of Executive Directors in Banks

1249. SHRI R.R GOENKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether vacancies for the post of Executive Directors have been lying vacant in six Public Sector Banks for a long periods;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the process of selection for the post undertaken recently "is being done in gross violation of the existing guidelines laid down by the Department of Personnel" as brought out in a write up in the Indian Express dated the 26th December, 2002; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for overlooking the established guidelines on the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND CQMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The posts of Executive Director are lying vacant in the following three banks:

Sr	Name of the bank	Date of vacancy	Reason for vacancy
1.	Vijaya Bank	24.8.2002	The then incumbent to the post of Executive Director appointed as Chairman and Managing Director, Syndicate Bank.
2.	UCO Bank	11.11.2002	The then incumbent to the post of Executive Director appointed as Chairman and Managing Director, National Housing Bank.
3.	Bank of Maharashtra	1.3.2003	The then incumbent to the post of Executive Director has retired on superannuation on 28.2.2003.

The appointments to these posts are being processed and will be made shortly.

(c) Appointment of Executive Directors of nationalised banks is made on the basis of recommendations made by the Appointments Board constituted for this purpose. The Appointments Board consists of Governor, RBI, Deputy Governor, RBI, Finance Secretary, Secretary (Banking & Insurance) and two outside experts in Banking and Management. The Appointments Board is preparing a panel for filling up these vacancies. In doing so, no rules have been violated.

(d) Does not arise.

Indian National Rural Bank

1250. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman of NABARD, Reserve Bank of India and the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance had recommended for establishment of an Indian Rural Bank combining all 196 rural banks to streamline and strengthen the rural economy; and

(b) if so, by when Government propose to bring a Bill in Parliament in this regard?